

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01271 281854 Z

46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DOTE-00 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 TRSE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /051 W

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R 272218 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3838

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 1271

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CI, US

SUBJ: CHILEAN PORT CONDITIONS

REF: A) STATE 052331; B) SANTIAGO A-249, 1972

1. EMBOFF VISITED VALPARAISO MARCH 23 TO SURVEY CONDITION AM EIGHT VESSELS WERE AWAITING BERTHS; ACCORDING SHIPPING SOURCES, AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR EACH VESSEL IN VALPARAISO IS ABOUT 5 DAYS ALTHOUGH DELAYS OF 2 WEEKS OR MORE ARE NOT UNCOMMON. TWO SHIFTS OF LONGSHOREMEN WORK FROM 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT 7 DAYS A WEEK. HOWEVER, DUE TO LAX LABOR PRACTICES, ONE SHIPPING AGENCY SOURCE ESTIMATES THAT ONLY 10 OF THE 16 HOURS ARE ACTUALLY WORK. CARGO-HANDLING EQUIPMENT IN VALPARAISO IS MOSTLY OBSOLETE AND POORLY MAINTAINED. SHIP'S GEAR IS OFTEN USED TO HANDLE CARGO. LACK OF ADEQUATE TRUCK AND RAIL TRANSPORTATION NEEDED TO MOVE GOODS FROM DOCKSIDE TO WAREHOUSE IS EVIDENT. SHORTAGE OF TRUCK AND RAILWAY SPARE PARTS AND NEW EQUIPMENT HAMPERS FLOW OF GOODS AWAY FROM PORT AREA. MOREOVER, WAREHOUSES OPERATE ONLY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM. MOST OF ABOVE PROBLEMS COULD BE MINIMIZED OR ELIMINATED IF CHILEAN PORT AUTHORITY (EMPORCHI) HAD AUTHORITY TO DEAL EFFECTELY WITH SUCH FACTORS AS LABOR, TRANSPORTATION, AND WAREHOUSING. THE NEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE PORT AUTHORITY IS APPRECIATED BY GOC OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PORT MATTERS, BUT CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION SEEMS UNLIKELY DUE TO RELUCTANCE OF ENTITIES INVOLVED TO SACRIFICE ANY OF THEIR AUTONOMY.

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LIMITED COMES
PART OF DOCUMENTATION OF MSC MEETING. IN ADDITION, US
REP STATEMENT WILL APPEAR VERBATIM IN SUMMARY RECORD
AND WILL BE REFLECTED IN MSC REPORT.

ANNENBERG

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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